



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

December 1, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors  
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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

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Fifth District

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION CORPS (ITEM #65, AGENDA OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2001)**

On September 25, 2001, the Board of Supervisors requested that the Chief Executive Office, Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Internal Services Department work with the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council to explore the establishment of an emergency construction corps to assist the County in the event of an occurrence of a catastrophic disaster resulting in property damage in the County.

DPW explored the proposal with the Building and Trades Council and determined that the establishment of a corps is not necessary given the existence of previously established programs that already address the need to provide supplemental assistance from pre-qualified personnel during and after a disaster.

In lieu of an emergency construction corps, DPW is part of the Standardized Emergency Management System in California which provides needs-based assistance to supplement local resources in a disaster.

- For damage/safety assessments, DPW participates in the California Emergency Management Agency's Safety Assessment Program (SAP), which includes the professional organization of the California Building Officials. The goal of SAP is to help local government perform accurate facility safety assessments as quickly as possible. All inspectors dispatched by SAP are qualified to conduct safety assessments in California.
- The Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement (PWMAA) allows DPW to access the resources of 17 counties and 146 cities statewide. All 10 Southern California counties are PWMAA signatories, and DPW is the program administrator. The

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neighboring counties of Orange, Ventura, and Santa Barbara have the resources of 135 cities. The PWMAA has established procedures and protocol for requesting and receiving resources after a disaster.

- National professional organizations such as the American Public Works Association (APWA), American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), and Engineering Contractors Association may offer their services prior to, during, or after an emergency. APWA and ASCE both maintain a list of pre-qualified volunteers.

Recognizing that spontaneous volunteerism will result from a large disaster event, OEM has established policies and procedures for managing the intake and referral process for those who will respond. The plan establishes an organizational structure and process by which the County can access and manage spontaneous volunteer and service program resources for community-wide disaster response, relief, and recovery efforts. It provides for the coordination of planning efforts among the various emergency departments, agencies, special districts, and jurisdictions that comprise the Los Angeles Operational Area.

OEM is working in partnership with the five volunteer centers that cover Los Angeles County to establish a system of spontaneous volunteer management, designate a lead agency for establishing emergency volunteer centers, and to coordinate state-wide initiatives to streamline access to volunteer services. The partnership between the volunteer centers and OEM has been strengthened by award of a grant from the State California Volunteers to LA Works to support the development of standards and protocols for the Los Angeles Operational Area.

Because DPW and OEM are currently engaged in programs that provide the same or substantially similar benefits to those provided by an emergency construction corps, it is not necessary to create one at this time.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Jeanne O'Donnell, OEM, at (323) 980-2227 or [jodonnell@ceooem.lacounty.gov](mailto:jodonnell@ceooem.lacounty.gov).

WTF:BK:JF  
MI:JO:cc

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Acting County Counsel